Last fall the orthopaedic surgeon told Lil that she would soon have to decide whether or not to have a hip replacement. Last month Lil decided that the pain she was having indicated that time had come, and that she would have the operation after the end of the tax season. We saw the surgeon two days ago. She questioned Lil and examined and X-rayed her and then recommended against the surgery now. She made this recommendation because she believes that most of the pain Lil is having does not come from the hip but from the back. She said that while there would be some relief from the pain with a hip replacement, after the replacement Lil would still have most of the pain and that she therefore believes that major surgery is not indicated when most of the pain will linger. She prescribed a new pain killer, to be tried for two weeks. I asked if physical therapy may be indicated. The doctor said perhaps, to ask again after two weeks of that new medication. She also thinks, comparing the development of the hip problem in the past six months, that it may be several years before that operation is indicated.

Yesterday I saw our physical therapist who has become a friend and who does not charge me for my use of their machines three times a week. When I told him what the doctor had said he said to tell Lil it might be a good idea if she came in a couple of times for him to see if there is something he can do that might be helpful. What he was also saying is that she would not be billed.

That Lil will have to live with the pain is not comforting but knowing that one of our doctors is willing to forgo a fat fee in the patient's interest is.

Hu 3/14/96